

Methods of Communicating the Surcharge Policy

The authorizing legislation required this report to examine how campuses “provide notice to a student that the student is approaching the credit hour limit and will be charged the tuition surcharge if the student exceeds that limit.”

The Fiscal Research Division surveyed the 16 campuses about their specific communication methods for each of the following:

- Educating all enrolled students about the tuition surcharge policy; and
- Notifying students who approach the surcharge’s credit-hour cap.

The following sections discuss the survey’s findings:

Educating All Enrolled Students about the Tuition Surcharge Policy

The campus survey showed that every campus takes extensive efforts to educate all students about the tuition surcharge policy. At a minimum, all 16 campuses discuss the tuition surcharge policy in their course catalog and on their website. Additionally, almost every campus notes the tuition surcharge policy on its tuition statements or tuition bills, whether these are provided in hard copy or via electronic resources.

Many campuses go beyond these basic outreach strategies. Eleven of the 16 campuses discuss the tuition surcharge policy with freshman and transfer students (and/or their parents) during orientation sessions. On 10 campuses, academic advisors are educated about the surcharge and discuss it with their advisees.

Figure 6 summarizes the numerous communication strategies used by the campuses to ensure that all enrolled students learn about the surcharge well in advance of their reaching the credit-hour cap.

Figure 6. Methods to Educate All Enrolled Students About the Tuition Surcharge Policy

	Orientation Sessions	Academic Advisors	Course Catalog	Campus Website	Tuition/ Fee Brochures	Tuition/ Fee Bills	Other
ASU	•	•	•	•		•	
ECSU	•		•	•	•	•	• (1)
ECU	•	•	•	•	•	•	
FSU	•	•	•	•	•	•	
NCA&T	•	•	•	•	•	•	
NCCU	•	•	•	•		•	• (2)
NCSU			•	•	•	•	• (3)
UNCA	•	•	•	•			• (4)
UNCC	•		•	•		•	
UNCCH	•	•	•	•	•	•	
UNCG			•	•		•	
UNCP		•	•	•	•	•	
UNCSA		•	•	•		•	• (5)
UNCW			•	•	•	•	
WCU	•		•	•		•	
WSSU	•	•	•	•		•	

Source: Survey of UNC System Campuses

Notes:

- 1) Policy is physically posted on campus and discussed with students during financial aid counseling.
- 2) Policy is physically posted on campus.